



MEETING NOTES

Project: Embarcadero Plaza Refresh

Meeting Date: July, 21 2025

Meeting Location: BxP Office

Notes By: Roana Tirado

Participants: SF Park & Rec:

LB: Lisa Bransten (online)
EG: Eoanna Goodwin
BV: Beverly Ng (online)
KR: Kelli Rudnick

BxP:

AF: Aaron Fenton

Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum (HOK)

BJ: Brian Jencek (online)
RT: Roana Tirado
YK: Yong Uk Kim
ZB: Zorana Bosnic

The following meeting notes were prepared by HOK. The notes reflect the author's understanding of discussions and provide a record of the agreements reached at the meeting. Should any of those present have different recollections or find errors or omissions in the notes, please advise the author in writing within five calendar days of receipt of the meeting notes. The failure to notify HOK of errors or omissions within a reasonable time following receipt of the meeting notes is deemed acceptance of the discussions and record of agreements stated herein.

Notes:

Item No.	Item	Action By	Date Req'd.
	Meeting Purpose: Weekly Project Delivery Meeting		
1	Survey Summary 1) EG shared update on Survey Response a) Preservation of Site Character & History: i. Desire to maintain the existing character of the plaza and incorporate more historical context into the design. b) Programming Balance i. Some feel the park is over-programmed and trying to serve too many users, reducing its quality as a public space. c) Vaillancourt Fountain i. Divided views remain on keeping vs. removing vs. preserving parts of the Vaillancourt Fountain. d) Street Artists i. Strong support for keeping dedicated, visible space for street artists and vendors. They very much like their current location in the middle of the right of way so folks need to walk past their booths. e) Skate Area i. Questions on what it will be, where it will go, and concerns about conflicts with street artists, kids, seniors, and pedestrians. Strong preference to separate from other uses f) Dog Park i. Many question if it's needed or if it's too large. Some suggest smaller or more integrated dog-friendly options. Other question the location – some say it should be along Embarcadero where it's noisier and further away from some of the habitat life at Sue Bierman West while others think it should be at Sue Bierman West. g) Stage Use i. Concern that the stage will become inactive when events		

	aren't happening. Suggestions to ensure it remains engaging daily h) Public Art i. Questions about whether art will be a single feature or dispersed throughout the site. Desire for thoughtful integration i) Playground i. Requests for more shade and an expanded footprint to serve more families j) Circulation & Multi-Use Areas i. Confusion around definitions of multi-use versus plaza and where circulation paths will be. Concern about mixing skaters and pedestrians in shared circulation paths k) Native Plants & Biodiversity i. Strong interest in preserving and enhancing native plantings to support urban biodiversity—especially birds and pollinators. Requests to prioritize ecological design and avoid overly ornamental landscaping. 2) Group Discussion of Preliminary Results a) Street Artists i. One touchpoint meeting with the street artists recommended as their use is currently permitted by the Arts Commission not RPD b) Skate Area i. BJ noted feedback at community meeting regarding the skate zone the team identified was positive from all stakeholders c) Stage Use i. AF recommended shaping the stage like the Vaillancourt Fountain as a way of memorializing the fountain with the incorporation of a ledge that tiers up to the stage for use as an informal skateable space. Structure recommended for ease of use by users of the stage. ii. Concerns around potential for clash of uses discussed d) Preservation of Site Character & History i. Reclamation of brick discussed ii. Resue of exact brick difficult but new bricks can be used		
2	Design Schedule Discussion 1) Mayor's mandate for groundbreaking by Fall 2026.HOK developed a proposed schedule with critical milestone dates to achieve that date. 2) Proposed Design Schedule Discussed (See attached) a) Select Final Program July 28th b) Final Survey Results August 1st c) Submit CEQA application August 1st d) Visual Arts Committee Early August i. Draft letter to be crafted by RPD outlining recommendations on next steps regarding the Vaillancourt Fountain. ii. RPD to explore risks around lack of maintenance to the fountain iii. Goal to broach initial approval to remove, with final removal occurring after CEQA completion e) Select Final Design Concept August 18th f) Arts Commission September 5th g) Renderings Complete October h) Community Meeting 3 Early November i) RPD Commission Mid-November		
	Next Steps 1) HOK to send list of decisions needed to RPD (sent via email 7/22) 2) RPD to have responses by 7/29 PD meeting 3) RPD (Lisa) to provide donor recognition packages (sent via email 7/23)		



07-22-25

